

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found at least, *e.g.*, at page 7, lines 16-20 of the original specification. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of eight groups under 35 U.S.C. §§121 and 372. In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect **with traverse**, **Group I**, claims 1-3, drawn to a method for in vitro detection of malignant potential of dysplasia with SEQ ID NO: 1. Applicants' reasons for traversal are set forth below

SEQ ID NOs: 1-4 are obtained by sequencing the antisense strand and the sense strand of the human *p16* gene DNA sequence having artificial chemical modification. In the natural state, the sense strand and the antisense strand of DNA sequence are completely complementary to each other. However, after artificial chemical modification, the sense strand and the antisense strand of DNA sequence are no longer complementary to each other and are able to produce respectively a newly complementary strand during amplification.

SEQ ID NOs: 1-4 are not present in a natural state, and are distinct from natural DNA sequences. Because any of SEQ ID NOs: 1-4 may be used to detect the methylation state of *p16* CpG islands in the natural state, and such is not taught in the art, claims 1-7 are linked as to form a single general inventive concept.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to petition the Commissioner to review the restriction requirement if this restriction requirement is made final.

CONCLUSION

If a telephone conversation with Applicants' Agent would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 832-1000. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees to our **Deposit Account, No. 06-1448, Reference CNL-700.01**.

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Respectfully submitted,

By /Janann Y. Ali/
Janann Y. Ali
Registration No.: 54,958
FOLEY HOAG LLP
155 Seaport Blvd
Boston, Massachusetts 02210
(617) 832-1749
Agent for Applicants